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Golborne  
Urban District Council



**Annual Report**

of the

Public Health Department

For the Year 1956.



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Urban District Council



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Corrigenda

Page 7. Line 4

Delete from "Mr. Fred Lee, M.P." to  
"County Council" in line 7 and  
Substitute "County Alderman L. Ball, Esq.,  
J.P., Chairman, No 10 Divisional Health  
Committee, the Chair being occupied by  
Mr. Fred Lee, M.P. for the Newton  
Division of Lancashire, supported by  
Alderman Harry Lord. M.B.E., J.P., Chair-  
man of the Public Health Committee of the  
County Council".



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## CONTENTS

	Page
List of Members and Officers, 1956 ... ..	2
Staff of the Public Health Department... ..	3
Preface by Medical Officer of Health ... ..	4
Section A. General Statistics and Social Conditions ...	9
B. Prevalence and Control of Notifiable Diseases	19
C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area ... ..	28
D. Inspection and Supervision of Food ... ..	32
E. General and Personal Health Services ... ..	33
Preface by Senior Public Health Inspector ... ..	41
Sanitary Inspection of District... ..	43
Public Cleansing ... ..	48
Salvage... ..	52
Housing... ..	53
Drainage and Conversions ... ..	59
Water Supply ... ..	60
Inspection and Supervision of Food ... ..	60
Shops Act, 1950 ... ..	74
Licensed Premises ... ..	74
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951 ... ..	75
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 ... ..	75
Rodent Control ... ..	75
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	77
Pet Animals Act, 1951 ... ..	78
Animal Destruction Centre... ..	78
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Section 86 ...	79
Factories Act... ..	79
Atmospheric Pollution ... ..	81

## GOLBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## LIST OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS, 1956

— o —

Chairman of Council	...	...	...	Councillor E.M. Jones, J.P.
Vice Chairman	...	...	...	Councillor J. Barwell
Chairman of Health Committee	...	...	...	Councillor E. Richards, J.P.

— o —

Members							Ward
Leonard Ball, J.P., C.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	Heath
Ernest Merion Jones	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
William Naylor, J.P.	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
John Armstrong	...	...	...	...	...	...	Park
Ernest Richards, J.P.	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
Thomas Henry Ralphs	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
John Barwell	...	...	...	...	...	...	St. Thomas's
George Henry Dearden, C.C.	...	...	...	...	...	...	do do
Richard Wilde	...	...	...	...	...	...	do do
Joseph Allen	...	...	...	...	...	...	Culcheth
John George Wedel	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
Gavin Alexander Cook	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
John Kenny (From February, 1956)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Kenyon
Meredith Millington	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
Thomas William Jackson, J.P.	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
Thomas Bullough	...	...	...	...	...	...	Lowton
Peter Harold Johnson	...	...	...	...	...	...	do
Reginald Thwaite	...	...	...	...	...	...	do

## OFFICERS

—

Clerk: Mr. F. Martland

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. A.C. Crawford

Surveyor: Mr. J.B. Hoyle

Treasurer and Chief Rating Officer: Mr. T.J. Robson

Senior Public Health Inspector: Mr. J. Blakeley



## GOLBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

— o —

## Medical Officer of Health:

A.C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

## Senior Public Health Inspector:

\*J. BLAKELEY, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

## Additional Public Health Inspector:

\*H. LONGWORTH, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

## Clerk:

Miss M.R. Sumner

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\*Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspectors

**NOTE:** The change of designation to Public Health Inspector is a requirement of the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, which came into operation in August, 1956, and provides that sanitary inspectors shall in future be designated public health inspectors

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH FOR 1956

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Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
LOWTON

To the Chairman and  
Members of the Golborne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information my Annual Report for the year 1956, on the work of the Health Department, the vital statistics and other relevant matters relating to the health of the community, and on those more personal health services which, although provided by the County Council as the "Local Health Authority" under the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the "Welfare Authority" for the purposes of the National Assistance Acts, have yet distinct and direct influences, through the personal health of the individual, on that of the public collectively. The Report therefore follows closely the pattern of its predecessors, and includes, for comprehensiveness and convenience, that of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

In general the vital statistics show little significant or appreciable change from those relating to 1955; the crude live birth rate, at 17.5 per 1000 population, is not quite so good (18.2 per 1000 in 1955), whereas on the other hand the crude death rate of 9.4 per 1000 is lower, and is in fact the lowest since 1953. As regards the infant and neo-natal mortality rates, which stand at 22 per 1000 and 12 per 1000 live births respectively, the former - a very satisfactory rate - is exactly the same as in 1955 (and incidentally is much the same as that for the country as a whole) whilst the latter is in fact a new low record for deaths during the first four weeks of life. Unfortunately, however, one must, when giving consideration to these indices of maternal and infant wellbeing, also take into account the statistics for still births, and here - with a total of no less than 17 still births, giving a rate of 50 still born babies per 1000 total births - the position is frankly disturbing, and offsets any feelings of satisfaction or complacency which the infant and neo-natal mortality rates might possibly engender. Granted that the causes of still birth are in many cases obscure, it seems

reasonably certain that they are causes which must act through the mother, and in consequence a high still birth rate reflects in some measure the quality - although possibly not on the quantity of ante-natal care and supervision. In this connection it is interesting to find that of the fifteen mothers who gave birth to these stillborn babies only one had been in attendance at the Golborne Ante-natal Clinic, this mother was in fact one of two who gave birth to twins, of which one twin was stillborn in each case. Further inquiry as to the extent of the ante-natal care which each of these fifteen women received is being pursued.

Once again a consideration of the principal causes of death shows that the major group cause is still that comprising diseases of the heart and blood vessels, which, if one excludes the vascular diseases of the central nervous system - the "strokes" - accounts for no fewer than 60 deaths out of the total of 172, or rather more than one third. Next in order of frequency comes the group of cancerous diseases, with 24 deaths, of which 5 resulted from growths in the lungs or bronchial passages; close in third place are diseases of the respiratory system, Pneumonia and Bronchitis (but excluding Tuberculosis) which account for 23 deaths; and following this group, the "strokes", with 20 fatalities attributable thereto. Tying for fifth place, with the same number of deaths, comes the very polyglot group of illnesses in the category of "other defined and ill-defined diseases"; whilst in sixth place we have deaths due to violence - all accidental - which total 8 in all, of which 4 were associated with motor-vehicles and 4 were accidents due to other causes. Taken as a whole, therefore, the year has presented little that is noteworthy in its mortality statistics.

The year's total of 115 cases of notifiable disease inclusive of Tuberculosis, constitutes a new low record, it is less than one half of the figure for 1955 (282) and of the mean figure for the five years 1951-55 inclusive, the "quinquennial mean", which is 266. This reduction has been due to a very considerable lowering of the Measles incidence, 35 cases as compared with 197 in 1955, and also to a similar decrease in Whooping Cough, of which the notifications, 27 in number, were little more than one half of the figure for the previous year (46), and of the corresponding quinquennial mean of 48 over the previous five-yearly period. On the other hand, there was a somewhat increased prevalence of Scarlet Fever (25 cases) as compared with 1955 (21) and with the average incidence for the previous five years (20); and 12 cases of Dysentery (the mild type due to the Sonne bacillus) occurred



as against 9 in 1955, and 55 in 1954.

Notifications of Tuberculosis, both respiratory and other forms, amounted to 11 in all, of which 6 were respiratory and 5 non-respiratory; when contrasted with the figure of 2 for 1955 this total seems a rather startling increase, but it is not materially different from the quinquennial mean of 12. There were no cases of Meningococcal Meningitis, Puerperal Pyrexia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever or Food Poisoning, and only 1 of Poliomyelitis, of the non-paralytic variety. A satisfactory year in every way from the angle of notifiable diseases, but one which by reason of its low Measles and Whooping Cough incidence, prophesies heavy epidemics, certainly of the former disease, within the next year or two. As regards Whooping Cough, there is every reason to hope that the "active immunisation" which is being conferred by the use of the "triple antigen" against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus will reduce both the frequency and the severity of this disease, one of the most dangerous, and certainly the most distressing of the illnesses of early childhood.

Whilst on the subject of notifiable diseases and immunisation programmes it is important to record the acceptance by the Ministry of Health of a British produced modification of the American Salk Vaccine, and the initiation of the "Poliomyelitis vaccination" scheme in this country, using the modified vaccine. Briefly, the official scheme embodied (a) the registration of children, born during the years 1947-1954 inclusive, by those parents who desire to have such children protected by immunisation, and (b) the inoculation of such "registered" children as rapidly as possible, having regard (i) to the most vulnerable age groups within the range, (ii) to the limited supplies of vaccine which could be produced, tested and distributed and (iii) to the fact that at the time it was considered inadvisable to continue actual immunisation during the months June - November inclusive, which period is generally accepted as the epidemic season for this disease. Registration of eligible children was open until the end of March; small supplies of the vaccine were made available (to Local Health Authorities only) in May, and during the latter part of that month, the whole of June, and the month of December, immunisation proceeded. Details of the actual numbers immunised are given in the later section of this report dealing with the services of the local health authority generally and vaccination and immunisation in particular.

Golborne House, the recently completed hostel for old persons, with accommodation, apart from that for residential staff, for 50 old persons of both sexes, equally distributed, was opened by Mr. Fred Lee, Member of Parliament for the Newton Division of Lancashire, on 8th December, the chair being occupied by Alderman H. Lord, M.B.E., Chairman of the Public Health Committee of the County Council. The new combined School Clinic and Child Welfare Centre situated next door to Golborne House, in Oak Avenue, was also brought into use at the beginning of September.

The principal public health measures required and to which your attention is drawn are as follows:- (a) The continued conversion to the water carriage system of privies and pail closets and the replacement by modern individual water closets and fittings of old and relatively insanitary types - particularly in school premises; (b) the provision of more houses, in excess of those dealt with by schemes for individual demolition or clearance; (c) further improvement in water supplies, both as to quantity (in some districts) and to quality, through continued efforts to secure the removal of suspended chalk and lime; (d) improved control of tips, which can only be secured by the provision of suitable mechanical appliances and (e) further efforts to secure (i) better industrial and sewage effluents which discharge into Millingford Brook and (ii) the requisite dredging and clearance of this brook, and Ellams Brook, to assist an increased velocity of flow through the district.

To you, Mr. Chairman, and to all members of the Health Committee and of the Council, I would express my warm thanks for your interest and support; I am likewise grateful to my colleagues on the Council's staff, particularly to the Clerk and to the Chief Officers of other departments. Both you, and they, will however appreciate, as indeed I myself so clearly do, how necessary it is to be able to rely completely on the competence, conscientiousness and loyalty of colleagues in one's own department, and in this respect no one could possibly be in a happier association than I, having in close support Mr. Blakeley, as Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. Longworth. Both have fully earned my high regard and respect; I am very happy to record it and thank them most sincerely for their willing and unceasing efforts to sustain the high tradition of their calling, and mine, in the sphere of "public health" and "preventive medicine". Only too often, alas, largely because "familiarity breeds contempt", the importance of the day-to-day work of the Public Health Inspector, the high degree of technical (and legal) knowledge

he must maintain, and the utterly essential role which he plays in the preservation both of individual and communal health, is forgotten. All of us are dependent, to a much greater degree than is generally recognised, on his technical knowledge, practical proficiencies, power of decision, common sense and tact for the preservation of our personal health. It is well that we should remember this and record our indebtedness and thanks as the occasion presents.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A.C. CRAWFORD,

Medical Officer of Health



## SECTION A

## GENERAL STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

## General Statistics

Area of district in acres	...	...	...	7,548
Population. Census 1931	...	...	...	13,748
Population. Census 1951	...	...	...	16,876
Population. Registrar General's estimate, mid. 1955	...	...	...	17,910
Population. Registrar General's estimate, mid. 1956	...	...	...	18,310
Number of inhabited Houses-				
Census 1931	...	...	...	3,140
End of 1956 according to rate books				5,731
Rateable Value, End of 1955	...	...	...	£92,448
Rateable Value, End of 1956	...	...	...	£134,191
Sum represented by a penny rate at end of 1956	...	...	...	£515

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Golborne Urban District extends from Ashton-in-Makerfield, Haydock and Newton-le-Willows on the west to Irlam Urban District and Rixton-with-Glazebrook in the Warrington Rural Area on the east, a distance of about 7 miles. The southern boundaries are Newton Urban District, and Croft, in the Warrington Rural District, whilst the area is bounded on the North by Abram Urban District and Leigh Borough.

The geological features of the Urban District vary very greatly. Starting from the western end and proceeding eastward, we first find coal fields and red sandstone, with a covering of clay surfaced by a good depth of loamy soil. In the more central parts of the area there is a sandstone base with a decreasing amount of clay and in the eastern portions the sub-soil becomes more sandy and the surface soil much more open, eventually becoming largely moss land.

The surface waters from Lowton and Golborne Wards mainly gravitate to Millingford Brook, which passes through the former Newton lake before entering Sankey Brook, whose ultimate outlet is into the River Mersey at Sankey Bridges.

Lowton St. Mary's, Kenyon and Culcheth are principally drained by streams flowing eastward into the River Glaze, which falls to the Manchester Ship Canal. The height above Ordnance datum varies from 100 to 150 feet.

For the purposes of Local Government the district is divided into six wards, comprising St. Thomas's, Heath and Park Wards in Golborne, and Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth Wards, each with three representatives, making a total of eighteen Councillors.

The principal industries in the district are Artificial Silk Manufacture, Coal Mining, Engineering, Jam and Sugar Confectionery and Agriculture. There has been full employment in these industries throughout the year.



## VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	160	150	310
Illegitimate	6	5	11
Total	166	155	321

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude    ...    ...    ...    ...    ...    17.5

Adjusted    ...    ...    ...    ...    ...    16.0

STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	7	9	16
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	8	9	17

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 50

## DEATHS

98 Males    74 Females    Total 172

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population=

Crude    ...    ...    ...    ...    ...    9.4

Adjusted    ...    ...    ...    ...    ...    12.7

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion - 1

Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 2.96

## INFANT MORTALITY

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	2	5	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	5	7

## DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	22
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...			22
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil

## NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	...	...	...	4
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	12

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1956			
ANALYSIS OF INFANTILE MORTALITY			
Cause of Death	No. of Deaths		Age at Death
	M	F	
Broncho Pneumonia and Dehydration ... ..	-	1	7 Months
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-	1 Week
Gastro-Enteritis ... ..	1	1	1 Week, 2 Weeks
Haemorrhage, Torn Cord and Precipitate Labour	-	1	2 Hours
Intestinal Obstruction, Operation for Hydro- cephalus ... ..	-	1	3 Months
Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	-	1	8 Months

## STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1956

## Statistics for 1956 and the Period 1951-1955

	Live Births			Deaths (all causes)			Still Births		Maternal Mortality			Infant Mortality		Neo-Natal
	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Pop'n	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births
Year 1956	321	+17.5	166	*9.4	17	50	1	2.96	7	22	4	12		
" 1955	324	18.2	182	10.2	4	12	1	3.05	7	22	7	22		
" 1954	319	18.2	201	11.4	13	39	Nil	Nil	12	38	11	35		
" 1953	280	16.3	160	9.3	11	38	Nil	Nil	8	29	5	18		
" 1952	243	13.8	196	11.1	2	8	Nil	Nil	8	33	5	21		
" 1951	265	15.5	209	12.3	9	33	1	3.65	8	30	5	19		
Avg. 5 yrs. 1951-1955	286	16.4	189	10.8	8	26	0.4	1.34	9	30	7	23		

+1956 adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 0.91) - 16.0 per 1,000

\*1956 adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.35) - 12.7 per 1,000

## STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1956

## CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death					M	F	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...		2	0	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...		0	1	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
8.	Measles	...	...	...	0	0	0
9.	Other Infective and parasitic diseases				0	0	0
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...		3	2	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				4	1	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...		0	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...		0	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				5	4	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...		1	0	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	0	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system				7	13	20
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...		18	2	20
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...			1	3	4
20.	Other Heart disease	...	...	...	15	17	32
21.	Other Circulatory diseases	...	...		1	3	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	0	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	3	4
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	13	3	16
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system				2	0	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...			0	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea				2	1	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...		4	1	5
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...		1	0	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...			0	1	1
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...		0	2	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				11	9	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...		4	0	4
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	2	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operation of war	...			0	0	0
					98	74	172

(Registrar General's Return for District)



Total deaths of persons belonging to the District.

Males 98, Females 74 - Total 172

Compared with 182 in 1955 - A reduction of 10

"Inward Transfers" - Males 41, Females 32 - Total 73

"Outward Transfers" - Males 2, Females 8 - Total 10

### INWARD TRANSFERABLE DEATHS

(Showing place of Death, and numbers concerned)

	M	F
Astley Hospital ... ..	5	1
Alder Hey Hospital, West Derby ...	1	1
Atherleigh Hospital ... ..	4	3
Billinge Hospital ... ..	-	1
Broadgreen Hospital ... ..	-	1
Christopher Nursing Home, Wigan ...	-	1
Hope Hospital, Pendleton ... ..	-	1
Leigh Infirmary ... ..	6	5
Manchester Royal Infirmary ... ..	1	-
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan	5	2
Warrington General Hospital ... ..	4	7
Warrington Infirmary ... ..	3	3
Warrington Isolation Hospital... ..	1	-
Whelley Hospital, Wigan... ..	3	2
Ambulance on way to Warrington General Hospital ... ..	-	1
Ambulance on way to Leigh Infirmary...	1	-
Convent, Orchard Lane, Leigh ... ..	-	1
180, Earle Street, Newton-le-Willows	1	-
East Lancashire Road, Astley ... ..	1	-
East Lancashire Road, Haydock... ..	1	-
75, Frog Lane, Wigan ... ..	1	1
King Street, Leigh ... ..	1	-
107, Rice Lane, Liverpool ... ..	-	1
River Dee by the bandstand, Chester...	1	-
Roadside, Higher Lane, Lymm ... ..	1	-
	<u>41</u>	<u>32</u>

STATISTICS FOR 1956			
Comparative Birth, Death and Mortality Rates, with Analysis of Mortality and Morbidity			
	Golborne Urban District	Lancashire Boroughs and Urban Districts	England and Wales
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population		
Births-			
Live ... ..	16.0	15.49	15.7
Still ... ..	0.92	0.40	0.37
Deaths-			
All causes ... ..	12.7	13.86	11.7
Tuberculosis (All Forms)	0.11	0.12	0.12
Respiratory... ..	0.11	0.11	0.11
Non-Respiratory ...	0.00	0.01	0.01
Cancer (All Forms) ...	1.31	2.15	2.08
Lung and Bronchus	0.28	0.40	0.41
Other Cancer ... ..	1.03	1.75	1.67
Maternal Mortality (Total)	+2.96	+0.62	+0.56
Maternal Causes ...			
excluding Abortion	+2.96	+0.62	+0.46
Due to Abortion ...	+0.00		+0.10
Infant Mortality ...	* 22	* 27	*23.8
Neo-Natal Mortality	* 12	* 19	*16.9
<u>Case Notifications</u> (Corrected)			
Typhoid Fever... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.00	0.00	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.00	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever... ..	1.36	0.86	0.74
Whooping Cough ... ..	1.47	2.66	2.07
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas ... ..	0.10	0.10	0.10
Measles ... ..	1.91	4.04	3.59
Pneumonia ... ..	0.10	0.45	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis-			
Paralytic ... ..	0.00	0.05	0.04
Non-Paralytic ... ..	0.05	0.04	0.03
Dysentery ... ..	0.65	1.28	0.10
Food Poisoning ... ..	0.00	0.25	0.25
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0.00	0.12	0.26
Tuberculosis-			
Respiratory... ..	0.32	0.11	0.71
Meninges and C.N.S.	0.00		0.01
Other... ..	0.27	0.01	0.08

+Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births

\*Rate per 1,000 live births

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1956											
Crude Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates, 1947-1956											
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	
Births ... ..	23.2	17.0	16.0	16.9	15.4	13.8	16.3	18.2	18.2	17.5	
Deaths ... ..	12.6	10.5	11.3	10.2	12.3	11.1	9.3	11.4	10.2	9.4	
Infant Mortality	48	50	43	31	30	33	29	38	22	22	

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1956											
Deaths from Cancer, 1952-1956											
	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Golborne ... ..	8	8	8	6	11	4	8	3	9	4	
Lowton ... ..	1	5	3	2	5	5	4	4	3	4	
Kenyon ... ..	-	2	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Culcheth ... ..	3	7	4	1	4	4	4	2	1	3	
Total ... ..	34		29		33		25		24		
Rate per 1,000 Population ... ..	1.92		1.69		1.88		1.40		1.31		
% of Total Deaths	17.34%		18.12%		16.41%		13.18%		13.96%		



## SECTION B

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

As already indicated in the preface to this Report the total of 115 notifications received during the year in respect of all types of notifiable disease, including Tuberculosis, constitutes a new low record for the District. For this, the biggest reduction factor has been the low incidence of Measles, only 35 cases of which were notified, and also of Whooping Cough. This low figure, however currently welcome, must not be taken as indicative of a falling trend, because as is well known Measles epidemics have for many years past tended to recur every two to three years, as the proportion of children who have suffered from this illness and so become immune, tends to decline during the non-epidemic period, whilst a newly born infant population, highly susceptible from the age of six to nine months onwards, is liable to receive the infecting virus.

Epidemics of Whooping Cough are less clearly predictable; moreover, an increasing proportion of parents are securing a high degree of protection against this disease for their children through immunisation using the "triple antigen", which requires only two injections, at monthly intervals, to confer protection against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus ("lock jaw"). It seems likely, therefore, that next year's notifiable disease total will be swollen considerably by an outbreak of Measles - and possibly of Whooping Cough - to a figure more nearly approaching that of 1953 (403), of which 294 were Measles cases and 79 Whooping Cough.

Although Scarlet Fever has been rather more prevalent (25 cases) than for some years past, the type has remained benign, and the trend of public opinion - and of medical opinion also - is towards complacency and indifference. In my view there is a distinct risk here that the pendulum may swing too far; and also there is a distinct danger of underestimating the potential of an enemy. A note of warning, I think, is justifiable in this connection.

Nevertheless, the year has an excellent record, and there has been almost a complete absence of any of the more serious acute infectious illnesses.

### Tuberculosis

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis are vested in the County Council, Specialist Chest Physicians of the Regional Hospital Boards and the general practitioners. The County Council, on direction of the Minister of Health, are responsible for both prevention and after care of this condition, but local sanitary authorities are still empowered under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, to take all necessary action to prevent the spread of infection and the Medical Officer of Health still retains specific duties and responsibilities under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

The Chest Clinic is situated at Leigh Infirmary, The Avenue, Leigh, and is open on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays for diagnosis and treatment as follows:-

Old Patients: Mondays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.  
Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

New Cases: Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Dr. E.H.W. Deane, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer, and Nurse Evans are in attendance at these sessions.

Eleven cases six respiratory and five non-respiratory, were notified during the year and the total number of cases on the Register - still maintained on a voluntary basis - at the end of the year was 93, as against 100 at 31st December, 1955.

### Disinfection

In most cases of infectious disease, rooms, bedding and other articles are disinfected by Formic Aldehyde fumigation following the removal of the case to hospital, or when the patient is certified free from infection.

Arrangements are in operation with the Borough of Leigh for the use of their steam disinfectors when required for the disinfection of bedding and clothing.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956															
(Corrected Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis))															
Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases at all Ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										Total Deaths	Cases Removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	
		Age Period - Years													
		Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-10	15-25	35-45	65 and over							
Scarlet Fever	25	-	-	-	2	17	5	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	-
Measles	35	1	-	4	3	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	27	8	3	1	2	9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	12	-	1	-	-	2	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	104	9	4	5	5	54	12	2	2	1	1	-	8	-	-

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956									
Ward Distribution of Infectious Diseases									
Disease	Ward						Total		
	St. Thomas	Heath	Park	Lowton	Kenyon	Culcheth			
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	2	-	10	12		
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	1	-	1	2		
Measles ...	1	-	-	1	-	33	35		
Pneumonia ...	-	1	-	-	-	1	2		
Polio-myelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	1	-	-	1		
Scarlet Fever ...	11	3	2	2	1	6	25		
Whooping Cough ...	3	3	1	3	-	17	27		
Totals ...	15	7	3	10	1	68	104		



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES														
Comparative Tables of Incidence and Mortality														
Disease	1956		1955		1954		1953		1952		1951		Quinquennial Mean 1951-1955	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	25	-	21	-	16	-	12	-	32	-	22	-	20	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	35	-	197	-	78	-	294	1	48	-	185	1	160	0.4
Whooping Cough	27	-	46	-	26	-	79	1	61	-	29	-	48	0.2
Enteric Group Fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-
Dysentery	12	-	9	-	55	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	13	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	0.8	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	0.4	-

(Table continued on Page 24)

(Table continued from Page 23)

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES													
Comparative Tables of Incidence and Mortality													
Disease	1956		1955		1954		1953		1952		1951		Quinquennial Mean 1951-1955 Cases Deaths
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	0.6 -
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	0.6 0.2
Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	2	4	4	6	6	4	4	2	5	7	22	7	8 5.2
Erysipelas	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.2 -
Tuberculosis Respiratory	6	2	2	-	9	3	7	4	17	4	10	2	9 2.6
Tuberculosis Non-Respiratory	5	-	-	-	4	-	3	-	3	1	7	2	3 0.6
Total	115	6	282	7	194	7	403	8	171	12	279	12	263.8 9.2

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956															
Age Groups of New Cases of Tuberculosis															
Type	Sex	Age Groups												Total	
		0	1	2	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65		75 and over
Respiratory	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Non-Respiratory	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Female	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	5

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES, 1956

Incidence and Mortality of Tuberculosis

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
<u>No. of Cases</u> <u>Notified</u>					
Golborne	1	3	-	1	5
Lowton	-	1	-	3	4
Kenyon	1	-	-	1	2
Culcheth	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Deaths</u>					
Golborne	1	-	-	-	1
Lowton	1	-	-	-	1
Kenyon	-	-	-	-	-
Culcheth	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Removed from</u> <u>Register</u>					
Diagnosis not confirmed	-	-	-	-	-
Disease arrested and patient recovered	2	2	5	8	17
Removed to other Districts	2	1	-	-	3
<u>No. of cases</u> <u>on Register</u> <u>at 31st Dec-</u> <u>ember, 1956</u>					
Golborne	9	21	10	11	51
Lowton	8	4	2	1	15
Kenyon	3	-	1	4	8
Culcheth	6	9	2	2	19
Total	26	34	15	18	93



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1956

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS  
1956 and the period 1951-1955

	No. of Cases Notified		No. of Deaths		No. on Register at end of Year		Total
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
Year 1956	6	5	2	-	60	33	93
Year 1955	2	-	-	-	59	41	100
" 1954	9	4	3	-	53	41	94
" 1953	7	3	4	-	64	46	110
" 1952	17	3	4	1	68	54	122
" 1951	10	7	2	2	60	56	116
Average of 5 years 1951-1955	9	3	3	1	61	48	109

## SECTION C

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the district is derived from the following sources:-

Golborne - Water supplied in bulk from deep wells situated in Golborne, but controlled by Ince-in-Makerfield U.D.C. and distributed by Golborne U.D.C.

Lowton- Water Supplied in bulk by Liverpool Corporation through Abram, and also by Newton-le-Willows U.D.C. Both supplies distributed by Golborne U.D.C.

Kenyon and Culcheth - Water supplied and distributed by Warrington Corporation.

With the diversion of the last private water supply for agricultural purposes and a mains supply provided at the farmhouse concerned, all the houses in the district are now directly connected to public water mains.

The water supply is constant and has satisfied the purity standards of the Ministry of Health. Generally, the quantity of water supplied has been satisfactory. A booster scheme to augment supplies in the Lowton area has been of considerable benefit in this respect.

With the introduction of the modified Sodium Silicate process at the water softening plant early in the year a considerable reduction has been effected in the deposition of lime and carbonate in the water supply to Golborne township.

No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination or plumbo solvent action.

Twelve samples of water from the various public supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory. A sample of water from the one remaining private supply, taken prior to this being diverted entirely for agricultural use, was submitted for bacteriological examination and found to be satisfactory.

The average daily consumption of water per head during 1956 was 25.54 gallons, exclusive of water used for trade purposes.

Number of houses with piped supplies:- (a) Direct from mains, 5,731; (b) By stand pipe, 0; (c) From private supplies, 0.

### Drainage and Sewerage

With the exception of a number of houses situated at a considerable distance from any public drainage system, all premises in the district are now connected to the Council's sewers. Following the completion of the house connections scheme in the Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth districts, the conversion of privy and pail closets in these areas has proceeded steadily but it will be some years, at the present rate of progress, before these insanitary closets are completely eliminated.

### Rivers and Streams

The pollution of the Millingford Brook with sewage from the Ashton-in-Makerfield district still continues to a considerable extent, and necessitates frequent clearing of the sludge to avoid nuisances arising therefrom.

During the year the clearing of trees and debris along the course of Ellams Brook at Newton Hollows, which was carried out jointly by the three authorities - Newton-le-Willows, Golborne and Haydock Urban District Councils, has considerably improved the flow of the brook and reduced the flooding at this point. Some pollution of the brook continues, however, and, as I pointed out in last year's report, the closure of the Haydock East End Sewage Works must be one of the principal remedial measures in this respect. Unfortunately, it was not possible during the year to divert the sewage flowing to these works into the Sankey Valley Sewage Scheme but it is expected that this will be possible during the coming year. Meanwhile regular dredging and clearance of the watercourse should be continued.

### Closet Accommodation

Approximate number of the various types of closet accommodation provided in the district is as follows:-

Number of houses on water carriage system	...	...	...	5,632
do. middens	...	...	...	157
do. closets attached to these middens	...	...	...	254
do. dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	10
do. trough closets (Schools)	...	...	...	12
do. pail closets	...	...	...	46
do. waste water closets	...	...	...	1
do. moveable ashbins	...	...	...	5,799
do. fresh water closets	...	...	...	5,738



Eleven privies and one pail closet were converted to fresh water closets during the year.

### Public Cleansing

The collection and disposal of refuse is carried out by the Local Authority and is under the control of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

Four motor vehicles, all of which are of modern design, are employed on this work, and refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

### Schools

The unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at certain schools has been improved by the conversion of the trough closets to individual fresh water closets; but further conversions and improved closet facilities are still required at one school.

In some schools washing, cloakroom and drying arrangements are still unsatisfactory, and the method of obtaining drinking water, in the majority of schools, is still out of date.

### Housing

As will be seen from the detailed report of the Senior Public Health Inspector, the survey of housing defects has continued throughout the year, details of defective houses being recorded and appropriate action taken to remedy the more serious deficiencies, principally under Public Health Act procedure.

The high cost of building and the reluctance of owners to carry out even essential work, have been the cause of delay in securing necessary repairs to insanitary property.

Some overcrowding still exists and much hardship and ill-health results therefrom. The most frequent cause of overcrowding is married members of families remaining in the home, or returning at a later date to live with parents, owing to the general shortage of houses. Growth of family has been the cause of overcrowding in some cases.

During the year 80 new houses and 6 bungalows were provided by the Council. 35 new private houses and 44 bungalows were also erected and occupied during the year.

Twenty-one houses were demolished during the year, nineteen of which were the subject of demolition orders and the remaining two were demolished on undertakings given by the owners.

There are eight Council housing estates and 1,737 houses and bungalows are owned by the Council. These are distributed as follows:-

					<u>Houses</u>	<u>Bungalows</u>
Golborne -	(a)	St. Thomas's Ward	...	...	797	44
	(b)	Heath Ward	...	...	128	-
	(c)	Park Ward	...	...	92	2
Lowton	...	...	...	...	159	12
Culcheth -	(a)	Culcheth	...	...	225	20
	(b)	Glazebury	...	...	54	8
Kenyon			...	...	188	8
					<hr/>	<hr/>
		Total	...	...	1,643	94
					<hr/>	<hr/>

28 houses and 20 bungalows at Lowton Road, Golborne, 18 houses at Laburnum Road, Lowton, and 66 houses at Culcheth were also in course of erection at the end of the year.

## SECTION D

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Meat and Other Foods

One slaughterhouse is in operation in the district and animals slaughtered there provide a portion of the meat supply for the Culcheth and Glazebury districts. The main supply of butchers meat is, however, obtained from outside the district and the quality of all meat sold is generally good.

All food preparation premises, including cafes, restaurants and snackbars, are kept under observation by your Public Health Inspectors. These premises have generally been kept in a clean condition during the year, and there has been a gradual improvement in the standard of hygiene and equipment of these premises.

(b) Milk Supply

The major portion of the work undertaken in this sphere has been concerned with the inspection of dairies and other requirements relating to the distribution of milk together with the sampling of milk supplies for bacteriological examination.

The whole of the milk retailed in the district is "designated" and sold in sealed bottles in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 3 Order, 1953. All the supplies have been sampled regularly and sampling of milk at farms prior to pasteurisation has been continued.

A total of 98 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. As will be seen later in the report a small percentage of these samples (approximately 8%) failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test and two samples showed evidence of Tuberculous infection. In the two latter cases the assistance of the Divisional Veterinary Inspector was obtained and an investigation of the herds concerned was undertaken. Although no cows were seized as a result of these investigations (the offending animals having been sent for slaughter in the interim period between the sample being taken and the commencement of the investigation) this small percentage of positive findings emphasises the great importance of the frequent sampling of milk supplies.

No cases of infectious illness have arisen in which milk has been the vehicle of infection and it has been unnecessary to prohibit the sale of any supply. No notices were served under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.



## SECTION E

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

## FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

General bacteriological investigations have been carried out during the year at the Pathological Department, Wigan Infirmary and at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester, which has dealt with pathological material submitted both by general practitioners and by the Public Health Department - e.g. milk, water and ice-cream samples.

The chemical analysis of water, milk and other foods is carried out at the County Analyst's Laboratory, Preston.

Examinations Made During 1956

					Positive	Negative	Total
Throat Swabs	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Faeces	...	...	...	...	-	3	3

Hospital Accommodation

The majority of cases of infectious disease requiring hospital isolation have been admitted to Warrington Isolation Hospital, which is administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, the body nominally concerned with hospital treatment in this district; but small numbers have on occasion been removed to other isolation hospitals at Astley (Sanatorium) and Eccles (Ladywell).

No hospitals are situated in the Urban District and cases requiring general medical and nursing care are treated at hospitals in Wigan, Leigh or Warrington.

Arrangements are in operation for the admission of maternity cases to the General Hospital, Warrington, Victoria Park Maternity Home, Warrington, Whiston Hospital, The Firs Maternity Home, Leigh, Billinge Infirmary, and St. Mary's Hospital Manchester.

Maternity and Nursing Homes

One registered private maternity home is situated in the Urban District - i.e. Five Acres Nursing Home, Kenyon Lane, Lowton. Regular inspection and supervision of this Home is maintained by the Divisional Medical Officer.

## COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

### Diphtheria Immunisation

This work has continued throughout the year, being undertaken both by general practitioners in their surgeries and in the homes of patients, also by Assistant Divisional Medical Officers during child welfare centre, and at special immunisation sessions.

Responsibility, of course, devolves on the Local Health Authority - i.e. Lancashire County Council, which has now adopted the policy of providing inoculation antigens to secure immunity not only against Diphtheria, but also against Whooping Cough and against Tetanus (Lock Jaw).

During the year 255 children under fourteen years of age completed a course of primary immunisation, of which 226 were under the age of five years and in addition 103 children received "booster" or reinforcement injections.

The number of children under fifteen years of age in an immunised state at 31st December, 1956, was 2,912.

The locally estimated child population (under 15 years of age) at 1st July, 1956 - 4,497.

Percentage of child population immunised - 68%.

### Immunity against Whooping Cough and Tetanus

Included in the total number of children protected against Diphtheria mentioned above, a total of 26 were given primary protection against Whooping Cough also, and a further 190 against both Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

### Vaccination

During the year only 92 children under 1 year of age were vaccinated, all but one being successful. This total shows that only one in three of the children born during 1956 were given protection by vaccination, a situation which is most unsatisfactory. Despite intensive propaganda and personal advice by Health Visitors there seems to be but little improvement in public awareness of the value of this procedure.

### Maternity and Child Welfare

This work, which comprises essentially such matters as the ante-natal and post-natal care of the expectant mother, health-



visiting in the home, and the conduct of Child Welfare Centres, is the responsibility of the County Council, and its organisation and administration is part of the duty of the Divisional Health Committee and its officers. Care of the school-child under the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, is not usually regarded as the "Child Welfare Service", which deals solely with infants and small children under compulsory school age.

Within the Urban District responsibility is undertaken by Dr. H.G.M. Bennett, Assistant Divisional Medical Officer, and by three Health Visitors, Miss McKeown, who is concerned mainly with Golborne township, Miss Jenkinson, her colleague in the Lowton and Culcheth districts and Miss Griffiths, in the Kenyon area. (The care of school children is also part of the duty of these officers, in their capacity of School Nurses).

Details of the Ante-natal Clinics and Child Welfare Centres held in the Urban District are as follows:-

(a) Ante-natal Clinics

School Clinic, Derby Road, Golborne.  
Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Staff Dr. Bennett, Miss McKeown and Midwives concerned  
with cases

Attendances, etc., during 1956

<u>No. of Sessions</u>	<u>No. of Individual Women Attending during Year</u>	<u>Total Attendances</u>
51	88	564

(b) Child Welfare Centres

- (i) School Clinic, Derby Road, Golborne.  
Thursdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Dr. Bennett and Miss McKeown.
- (ii) Paramount Ballroom, Newton Road, Lowton.  
Alternate Tuesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Dr. Ellis and Miss Jenkinson.
- (iii) Social Centre, Churchill Avenue, Culcheth.  
Alternate Tuesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Dr. Ellis and Miss Jenkinson.

Attendances, etc., during 1956

	No. of Children			Total Attendances		
	Born in 1956	Born in 1955	Born in 1954-51	Under 1 Year	1-2	2-4
Golborne ...	113	83	100	1,681	181	248
Lowton ...	47	45	43	748	163	335
Culcheth ...	69	62	77	840	353	321
	<hr/> 229	<hr/> 190	<hr/> 220	<hr/> 3,269	<hr/> 697	<hr/> 904

School Health

Schools are visited periodically by Dr. Bennett, Miss McKeown and Miss Jenkinson, in order to carry out the statutory periodic medical examinations of school children, and also cleanliness inspections.

During the year the new school clinic in Derby Road, Golborne, was opened and has provided a much needed service for school children in the district requiring attention for minor ailments, dental and other defects. It is expected that treatment for orthopaedic, ophthalmic and ear, nose and throat defects will be provided in due course.

District Nursing Services

Domiciliary nursing services have been rendered during the whole of the year by the staff of district nurses and nurse-midwives administered by No. 10 Health Division, Lancashire County Council.

The ladies concerned are:-

Mrs. E. Monks, 27, Kenyon Lane, Lowton. Tel. No. Leigh 145.  
 Mrs. D. Woodward, 23, Bevin Avenue, Culcheth. Tel. No. Culcheth 2110  
 Mrs. E.M. Emerson, 46, Henry Street, Leigh. Tel. No. Leigh 620.

Midwifery Services

The Lancashire County Council is the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts, and the following is a list of the Midwives and Nurse-Midwives practising in the district:-

Mrs. M. Branch, 54, Bridge Street, Golborne. Tel. No. Golborne 292  
 Miss Harrison, The Flat, 73, High Street, Golborne. Tel. No. Golborne 375  
 Mrs. D. Woodward, 23, Bevin Avenue, Culcheth. Tel. No. Culcheth 2110

### Mental Health Services

The care and after care of persons suffering from mental defectiveness and mental illness, and investigation of cases in which persons are alleged to be so suffering, is undertaken, under the County Council scheme, by the Duly Authorised Officer. Although supervision of such cases in the home is also undertaken partly by a lady mental health worker, her principal concern is with cases of mental defectiveness.

Duly Authorised Officers: Mr. P.D. Parker, 12, Kenyon Lane, Lowton. Tel. No. Leigh 377. Mr. F. Griffin, Lowton House, Newton Road, Lowton. Tel. No. Newton-le-Willows 3417.

Mental Health Visitor: Miss M.V. Phillips, The Old Rectory, Winwick. Tel. No. Warrington 33144.

A duty roster is maintained to cover times other than normal office hours. Should the services of the Duly Authorised Officer be required during these times, application should be made to the Ambulance Station, Tel. No. Newton-le-Willows 2013; the caller will then be advised how to get in touch with the Duly Authorised Officer on duty.

### Home Help Facilities

This permissive service is available under the Lancashire County Council Divisional Health Scheme, (No. 10 Health Division), to homes requiring such assistance by reason of the presence in the household of a case of sickness (including mental illness and deficiency) advanced pregnancy, a parturient woman, an aged person or a child under school leaving age.

The service is not a free one; contributions must be made by the applicants towards the cost of provision in accordance with scales adopted by the County Council. Many applicants are, however, old age pensioners in straightened circumstances whose incomes are below the minimum prescribed by the scales, who therefore receive this help free of cost.

Home Help Organiser: Miss P. Butler, Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory, Winwick, who is also assisted by Miss M. Maclean.



### Welfare Services

During the latter half of the year Golborne House, a fifty place mixed hostel for aged persons, situated in Derby Road, Golborne, was completed and began to accept residents. This Hostel will provide a much needed service and it is hoped that it will become part of the community life of the district.

### Health Education

Health Education, although specifically a responsibility of the County Council under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, yet remains a responsibility of the Local Sanitary Authority under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and in this work the Public Health Department co-operates with the County Divisional Health staff.

Posters and pamphlets are displayed and distributed at Welfare Centres, Clinics, Factories, Canteens, etc., and film exhibitions are arranged from time to time at such centres.

### Ambulance Facilities

The County Council ambulance service has continued the conveyance of all types of case, i.e. infectious disease, emergency and consultative, within the Urban District boundary to hospitals, etc., elsewhere.

Part of the area, comprising Golborne township and most of the Lowton Area, is serviced from Newton-le-Willows ambulance station, whereas cases from Lowton St. Mary's, Culcheth and parts of the district bordering on the inter-divisional boundary are dealt with by the Leigh ambulance station.

This service has functioned in a very efficient and satisfactory manner.

The number of calls made on the ambulance service during the year, now regrouped into the two categories only "urgent" and "non-urgent", was as follows:-

Urgent Calls	...	...	...	...	...	...	427
Non-urgent Calls	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,304
							<hr/>
				Total	...	...	2,731
							<hr/>

SERVICES CONNECTED WITH DEPRIVED AND NEGLECTED CHILDRENChildren Act, 1948. Adoption Act, 1950Adoption of Children Act, 1949Children and Young Persons Act, 1933

The responsibilities devolving on the County Council as a local authority under the former Acts, and delegated to the Children's Committee of the County Council, are carried out on an area basis by Area Children's Committees, the principal executive officers of which are Area Children's Officers, who are assisted by Children's Visitors. The main duties under the Act concern children who are deprived, or children who for one reason or another do not have the advantages of a normal home and family life, and who are cared for and supervised by the Authority, if necessary in Children's Homes, but wherever practicable by foster parents in a family household. The Child Life Protection provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, are, of course, also a responsibility of the Children's Committee and Area Committees, who in addition are concerned very frequently with the care of children and young persons brought before the Courts as requiring care and protection.

The Area Children's Officer concerned with the Golborne Urban District is Miss J.W. Cole, of the No. 11 Area Children's Committee, whose offices are situated at 89/91, Railway Road, Leigh (Telephone: Leigh 1658) with whom a close and cordial working liaison is well established on all matters concerning the health and welfare, not only of children already in care, but of those in whose case it appears likely that they will sooner or later come into the care of the Authority.

During the past few years, however, much closer attention has been paid to the essential needs of children, not only on the material and physical side, but in the matter of their emotional health and stability, which has such an important bearing on their development as healthy, happy and useful members of society; and as the result of psychological studies it is clear, in the great majority of cases, that every effort should be made to keep children within the security of their own family area and environment if at all possible, despite the additional risks to physical health (provided these be not too serious) which may be entailed. The problem of the neglected, ill-treated or unhappy child is therefore one with and indivisible from the problem of the inadequate parent and home; and the "problem family" is thus more often than not the first in which is found the neglected ill-treated or anti-social child.

As the result of a joint advisory circular issued by the Home Office and the Ministries of Health and Education, a Co-

ordinating Committee of Officers was set up in No. 10 Health Division, (with the Divisional Medical Officer as Co-ordinating Officer), for the purpose of holding case-conferences and discussions, in order to decide on the steps to be taken in dealing with every particular case, and the officer most appropriate to deal with it. Such meetings, held regularly at two-monthly intervals, have been attended by Assistant Divisional Medical Officers, the Area Children's Officer and her Visitors, Local Probation Officers, Health Visitors and School Nurses, Public Health Inspectors, Home Help Organisers, Inspectors of the N.S.P.C.C., School Attendance Officers (usually representing the Divisional Education Officer), the Area Officer of the National Assistance Board, and on occasion, the Head Teacher of the school or schools attended by "neglected" children, or the children of problem families.

#### Other Health Authority Services

Information or assistance on any of the services outlined above in this section may be obtained on application to the Divisional Medical Officer, No. 10 Health Division, The Old Rectory, Winwick, near Warrington. Tel. No. Warrington 33144-5.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR - 1956

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Golborne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions and circumstances of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

During the year the work of the Public Health Department has continued, often under some pressure as a result of new legislation, and much time and energy has been expended to improve the general standard in the environmental health field. Day to day attention has been given to the improvement of living conditions, safety of food supplies and other health measures, and although these activities are not spectacular in character, they cover a much wider field than is usually appreciated by the general public.

With the coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations at the commencement of the year a considerable amount of additional work was thrown upon your Inspectors and hundreds of hours were spent inspecting and discussing with shopkeepers and others in charge of food premises the effect of the Regulations on various types of business and the interpretation of the various items, often at the expense of other duties. Although many traders have considerably improved their premises during the past few years much additional work will be required to comply with the new law.

The period under review was the first complete year's operation of the slum clearance programme and in accordance with the Council's policy thirty new houses in Golborne and Lowton for this purpose were commenced during the early part of the year. Demolition Orders were made in respect of thirty-one houses and although it was not possible to rehouse all the occupiers of these houses during the year some progress is being made in the removal of unfit houses.

As in previous years the repair of defective dwelling houses was one of the main considerations of the department and again there has been some delay in carrying out repairs due to the failure of some owners to comply with notices until legal proceedings are threatened. The ever increasing cost of repairs to be carried out on present low rents is having a detrimental effect on this work and the job of making owners spend money on essential repairs has become a major problem, which is not likely to be resolved until some definite incentive is given to effect the required improvements.

It is clear that the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which has been in operation more than two years, has failed to raise the standard of repair in dwelling houses as it was intended and we look forward to the new Rents Bill to effect an improvement in this respect.

The total number of defects remedied during the year was 1,045, compared with 1,153 the previous year. The majority of these defects were carried out without statutory action, but in common with the trend of the past few years, the number of statutory notices served increased from 111 in 1955 to 150 in 1956.

The public cleansing service has endeavoured to provide a satisfactory service for the removal of household refuse and a weekly collection of dustbin refuse has been maintained during the major portion of the year. This service has not been achieved without some difficulty owing to the continued growth of the district and the absence of workmen due to sickness and other causes, and could not possibly have been attained without the additional larger vehicle delivered in 1955. The collection of salvage continued its upward trend and the amount of waste paper collected and sold broke all previous records. Unfortunately, the price of this material fell during the year and the income was reduced in spite of the fact that nearly twenty-five tons of waste paper and cardboard were collection in excess of the collections for the previous year.

In conclusion, I wish to accord my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest in all matters affecting the environmental health services, to the Clerk and other officers for their helpful co-operation and assistance during the year. To the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Crawford, I tender my very sincere thanks for his continued help and support in the many aspects of the work, to the Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. Longworth and the Clerical Assistant, Miss Sumner for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. BLAKELEY.

Senior Public Health Inspector and  
Cleansing Superintendent

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

## Summary of Visits and Inspections

Accumulations of Rubbish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Animals Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	716
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Closet Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Council House Tenancies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Dairies and Milkshops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Dirty and Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Ditches and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dwelling Houses under Public Health Acts; Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
Dwelling Houses under Public Health Acts; Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	323
Dwelling Houses under Housing Acts; Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Dwelling Houses under Housing Acts; Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
Examination of Drains...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Factories...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Food Hygiene Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	241
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Grocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hostels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Housing Repairs and Rents Act; Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Housing Repairs and Rents Act; Revisits...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Improvement Grants; Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Improvement Grants; Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Interviews with Owners, Agents and Contractors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Keeping of Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Other Food Preparation and Storage Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pet Animals Act...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rag Flock, etc., Act; Inspections...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
do do do do Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56



Summary of Visits and Inspections continued

Rodent Infestations and Sewer Baiting	...	...	...	...	22
Salvage	...	...	...	...	3
Shops Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	68
Stables	...	...	...	...	1
Street Vendors and Hawkers	...	...	...	...	5
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	186
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	18
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	13
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	29
Total					3,589

Work Carried Out to Remedy Defects Discovered and Dealt  
with under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, etc.

Work carried out	Public Health Acts	Housing Act	Other Acts & Orders
<b>SANITARY ACCOMMODATION</b>			
Privies converted to water closets	11	-	-
Pail closets converted to water closets	1	-	-
Additional water closets provided	27	-	-
Privy closets abolished	5	-	-
Pail closets abolished	1	-	-
New outside water closet buildings provided	2	-	-
Defective water closet buildings repaired	7	1	-
Defective water closet supply pipes repaired	11	-	-
Defective water closet cisterns repaired	5	-	-
Defective water closet pedestals renewed	6	-	-
Ashpits abolished	10	-	-
Ashpits repaired	1	-	-
<b>DRAINAGE</b>			
Choked drains cleared	27	-	-
Defective drains repaired	2	-	-
Drains reconstructed	7	-	-
Additional drains provided	38	13	-

Work carried out	Public Health Acts	Housing Act	Other Acts & Orders
Drainage-continued			
Additional drain inspection chambers provided ... ..	1	1	-
New drainage systems provided ... ..	2	-	-
Drains provided with vent shafts ... ..	16	7	-
Drain vent shafts repaired ... ..	1	-	-
New eavesgutters provided... ..	24	2	-
Defective eaves gutters repaired ... ..	6	1	-
Downspouts repaired or renewed ... ..	6	2	-
New soil and waste pipes provided ... ..	15	9	-
New sinks provided ... ..	9	6	-
New sink waste pipes provided ... ..	16	9	-
Defective sink waste pipes repaired ... ..	1	2	-
New septic tanks provided... ..	1	1	-
HOUSING			
New floors provided ... ..	25	14	-
Defective floors repaired... ..	3	3	-
New skirtings to floors ... ..	4	6	-
New window frames provided ... ..	28	21	-
Defective window frames repaired ... ..	11	1	-
Broken window cords renewed ... ..	1	-	-
Additional windows provided ... ..	-	10	-
Defective wallplaster renewed (rooms)... ..	37	28	-
Defective ceiling plaster renewed (rooms) ... ..	12	9	-
Ceilings raised to bye-law height ... ..	-	8	-
Dampness. Provision of dampcourse ... ..	1	4	-
do Cement rendering of walls ... ..	-	1	-
New staircases provided ... ..	-	1	-
Provision of handrail and repairs to staircases ... ..	1	1	-
Ventilated foodstores provided ... ..	1	2	-
Permanent ventilation provided to existing foodstore ... ..	-	4	-
New washing boilers provided ... ..	-	1	-
New cupboards provided ... ..	8	4	-
New firegrates provided ... ..	10	11	-
Defective firegrates repaired ... ..	2	-	-
Bedrooms partitioned for separate access ... ..	2	6	-
New doors and frames provided ... ..	3	15	-
Doors and frames repaired... ..	21	15	-
Internal walls tiled ... ..	-	2	-



Work carried out	Public Health Acts	Housing Act	Other Acts & Orders
Housing-continued			
External walls repointed or repaired ...	6	7	-
Defective chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt ... ..	10	2	-
Defective roofs repaired ... ..	23	3	-
Yard paving repaired or renewed ... ..	1	4	-
Defective dustbins renewed ... ..	147	-	-
Dirty and verminous houses sprayed, fumigated and cleansed ... ..	7	-	-
Other premises sprayed ... ..	2	-	-
Houses demolished ... ..	-	21	-
New bathrooms provided ... ..	7	8	-
Baths provided ... ..	8	9	-
Lavatory basins provided ... ..	7	9	-
Hot water systems installed... ..	8	9	-
New cooking ranges provided... ..	-	2	-
Additional electric lights and plugs ... ..	-	11	-
Immersion heaters provided ... ..	-	3	-
Domestic water supply pipes renewed	8	-	-
New water supplies provided... ..	1	-	-
Private water supplies closed ... ..	1	-	-
Coal storage facilities provided ... ..	-	2	-
Other repairs ... ..	4	-	-
OTHER WORKS			
Insufficient sanitary accommodation in factories remedied ... ..	-	-	5
Unsuitable or defective factory closets remedied ... ..	-	-	4
Limewashing of bakehouses ... ..	-	-	3
Other offences ... ..	-	-	3
Additional closet buildings or compartments	-	-	15
Additional closets provided... ..	-	-	15
Additional wash basins provided ... ..	-	-	17
Additional urinals provided... ..	-	-	1
Additional intervening ventilated spaces	-	-	2
Totals ... ..	669	311	65

Number of defects or nuisances outstanding at end of 1955 ... ..	149
Number of defects or nuisances arising during 1956 ... ..	1,113

Number of defects or nuisances abated during 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,045
Number of defects or nuisances outstanding at end of 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Number of informal notices served...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Legal proceedings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

## Details of Statutory Notices Served

Section of Act	Reason for Notice	No. of Notices Served	No. of Notices Complied with	Outstanding at end of Year
39	Defective drains, sinks, etc.	3	2	1
39	Defective eaves-gutters, downspouts, etc.	38	21 (3 from 1955)	20
44	Insufficient sanitary accommodation	2	2	-
45	Defective closets	29	13 (2 from 1955)	18
75	Defective dustbins	14	13	1
93	Other conditions prejudicial to health	64	37 (2 from 1955)	29
		150	88	69

Twenty-two notices on sixteen properties were not complied with on the expiration of the time allowed and the necessary repairs were carried out after notification that legal proceedings would be instituted.

Proceedings were instituted to obtain a Nuisance Order in respect of one house where the owner had failed to comply with the requirements of a notice but were subsequently withdrawn on the repairs having been completed in the interim period before the case was heard.

Two notices requiring repairs to eavesgutters and closet buildings were carried out in default by the Surveyor's Department and the requirements of four other notices in connection with the renewal of defective dustbins were also carried out in default.

### Office Routine

This aspect of the work of the Department is rarely mentioned and it is fitting at this juncture to record some indication of the present trend in this respect. During the past few years as a result of legislation and other requirements the number of records to be kept and returns to be made weekly, quarterly and annually has increased considerably and an ever increasing amount of time has to be devoted to this work.

Much of this work on the Public Health side is of a confidential nature and demands the utmost secrecy and fidelity on the part of the staff. All the records were kept up to date during the period under review and the clerical work generally was carried out with a high degree of efficiency.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

#### Collection and Disposal of Refuse

During the year the refuse collection service was carried on with four vehicles, comprising one Karrier 12 cubic yard side loading vehicle purchased last year, two Karrier 10 cubic yard side loading vehicles obtained in 1948, and (for nine months) one Ford Thames vehicle purchased in 1943. The latter vehicle was replaced in October with another 12 cubic yard side loading vehicle.

With the continuing growth of the district - over 1,500 new dwellings having been erected during the past ten years - and the consequent additional work necessitated by the removal of refuse from new houses and other premises, the majority of which have "long carries" the larger vehicle was of considerable assistance in maintaining a regular collection of refuse.

Following the rearrangement of collection districts and personnel the weekly collection of dustbin refuse was maintained during the major portion of the year. Some difficulty was, however, experienced in maintaining this frequency of collection following holidays and other difficult periods.

The trade refuse scheme has been continued during the year under review. Under this scheme the contents of one dustbin are emptied free and a charge of 6d. per bin is made for the removal of other refuse from business premises. Where loads of refuse are removed these are charged at actual cost plus a percentage to cover administrative expenses. During the year 1,242 bins of trade refuse were removed. No loads of trade refuse were removed during this period.



The absence of workmen due to sickness and other causes has again created some difficulty in maintaining a regular refuse service and, more particularly, the proper control of the tips. A total of 648 man-days were lost during the year, (compared with 873 days during 1955) 406 of these being due to sickness and 242 due to other causes. This represents an average monthly reduction in staff of 2.5 men out of a total personnel of 21; the highest number of absences being in January when 116 man-days were lost, equivalent to five men during the whole month. In these circumstances it will be appreciated that it was most difficult to keep a regular service in operation at times.

Refuse has been disposed of at four tips, situated at Winwick Lane and Moss Lane, Lowton, Dam Lane, Golborne, and on land adjoining the sewage disposal works at Heyshoot Lane, Glazebury. These tips are adequate for the district, and refuse is disposed of, as far as possible, by means of controlled tipping on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health. As previously stated the absence of workmen due to sickness and other causes severely restricts this work and at times the refuse is not "controlled" as it should be. The provision of suitable mechanical equipment to facilitate the proper control of the tipped refuse must be given serious consideration at an early date.

The total amount of refuse dealt with shows an increase of 2,055 tons, 7 cwts in comparison with the previous year, this increased tonnage being largely due to the increased frequency of collection, the larger number of houses and the benefit of a larger vehicle during part of the year. The number of dustbins emptied increased by 35,353 over the previous year and although the number of privy closets was again slightly reduced by conversion, 230 more ashpits were emptied during the period under review. The number of pails emptied, however, shows a reduction in comparison with the previous year. Details of the service are given below.

	1956	1955
Number of loads of refuse removed	3,198	3,621
Approximate weight of refuse removed	10,131 tons 9 cwts	8,076 tons 2 cwts
Total number of dustbins emptied	291,130	255,777
Approximate number of bins emptied on each collection	5,941	5,220
Total number of ashpits emptied	1,559	1,329
Total number of pails emptied	1,235	1,297

The total cost of the refuse collection and disposal service (year ended 31st March, 1957) shows an increase of £1,545. 15. 7. over the previous year due to increased wages, haulage costs and



materials. It will be seen that whilst the cost per head of population has been increased by 1s. 5½d. in comparison with the previous year, the cost per ton of refuse collected and disposed of has been again reduced largely as a result of the increased tonnage dealt with during the year. Details of these costings are as follows:-

	1956			1955		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Net Cost (Collection and Disposal) ... ..	10,681	19	5	9,136	3	10
Cost per 1,000 of population ... ..	583	6	10	510	2	1½
Cost per head of population ... ..		11	8		10	2½
Cost per ton ... ..	1	1	1	1	2	7½

One hundred and forty-seven defective dustbins were renewed during the year. One hundred and thirty-two of these were supplied by the Health Department on payment being made and four dustbins were supplied in default of owners having failed to comply with notices to renew defective bins.

One hundred and eight defective dustbins were also renewed at Council houses during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING, 1956

Monthly Analysis of Refuse Collection and Disposal

Month	GOLBORNE				LOWTON				KENYON AND CULCHETH						
	Loads	Weight T C Q	Emptied			Loads	Weight T C Q	Emptied			Loads	Weight T C Q	Emptied		
			Bins	Ashpits	Palls			Bins	Ashpits	Palls			Bins	Ashpits	Palls
January	135	337-15-0	11,756	7	38	89	230- 7-2	6,321	40	43	94	237- 6-2	5,511	37	18
February	117	346-14-0	11,894	-	39	118	300- 0-0	7,992	101	56	60	133- 2-0	4,547	20	36
March	147	416- 5-0	12,921	15	31	82	221- 2-0	4,717	105	36	70	231- 9-0	5,700	57	40
April	113	400- 7-0	11,418	5	21	66	214- 2-2	5,789	55	39	51	148-17-2	4,142	49	22
May	127	435- 3-0	13,271	9	41	98	288-16-2	6,973	112	36	56	190- 9-2	5,491	21	27
June	117	403- 7-2	12,636	6	38	102	272- 2-2	6,754	139	41	69	220- 0-0	5,151	76	35
July	96	339-17-2	10,515	5	26	71	208-13-0	5,595	81	39	63	200- 7-1	5,656	30	38
August	113	356-17-0	12,908	14	36	89	303- 8-1	7,327	110	51	68	244-1-3	7,735	20	34
September	77	257-10-0	9,088	-	20	69	254- 8-0	5,928	49	30	56	208-16-0	5,222	52	47
October	112	368- 7-2	13,041	13	36	98	346-13-0	8,541	95	37	73	253- 0-2	6,959	27	14
November	109	416-10-0	11,792	-	39	93	300-19-0	8,047	75	39	65	201- 7-0	6,647	37	42
December	119	477-10-0	12,090	14	38	60	206- 2-0	5,334	58	10	56	159-15-0	5,721	25	22
Totals	1,382	4,556- 3-2	143,330	88	403	1,035	3,146-14-1	79,318	1,020	457	781	2,428-12-0	68,482	451	375

## SALVAGE

The collection of salvage has continued throughout the year and demand for waste paper has been fairly constant during the period. The price obtained for waste paper dropped from £8. 0. 0. to £7. 0. 0. per ton during the first quarter of the year and the price of cardboard varied between £9. 10. 0. and £8. 10. 0. for the major portion of the year and finally fell to the same price as waste paper in September as a result of a temporary surplus of this type of salvage.

The total amount of waste paper and cardboard collected (217 tons,  $14\frac{1}{4}$  cwts.) was the highest tonnage of such material to be disposed of in any year since the inception of the salvage scheme in 1940 and was 24 tons,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  cwts more than the amount collected during the previous year. The effect of this increased tonnage was more than offset by the reduced prices and the income from the sale of this material (£1,616. 15.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ) was £25. 11. 0. less than the previous year.

Rags and other textiles were in reasonable demand and the amount collected and sold (1 ton, 6 cwts) was nearly double that of the previous year. The prices obtained for this type of salvage remained similar to those of the previous two or three years. The recovery of tins from the tips was again very much reduced owing to the high rate of absenteeism among the workmen due to sickness and other causes making this work most difficult. On the few occasions when it was possible to recover small quantities of tins unauthorised persons scattered these about the tip before a load could be made up.

The salvage bonus scheme for the workmen employed on the refuse collection and salvage services was continued during the year and a bonus based on the tonnage of paper collected was distributed at the end of each quarter. The total bonus paid during the year amounted to £595. 3. 11., equivalent to an additional payment of  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d for each hour worked during the year, which is similar to the bonus paid during the previous year.

Materials Salvaged

				1956			1955		
				Tons	Cwts	Qrs	Tons	Cwts	Qrs
Waste paper	...	...	...	168	18	0	148	12	1
Cardboard	...	...	...	48	16	1	44	10	1
Rags	...	...	...	1	6	0	0	15	2
Tins	...	...	...	3	12	0	0	0	0
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	0	8	0	0	0	2
Totals	...	...	...	223	0	1	193	18	2



Receipts from Salvage

			1956			1955		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	1,213	10	0	1,227	2	6
Cardboard	...	...	403	15	1½	415	3	7½
Rags	...	...	18	4	0	10	17	0
Tins	...	...	3	12	0	0	0	0
Scrap Metal	...	...	2	0	0		5	0
			£1,641	1	1½	£1,653	8	1½

## HOUSING

The general standard of housing in the district varies somewhat. In the industrial area a considerable number of sub-standard houses of reasonable structure built forty to sixty years ago require improvement and modern amenities. In the other parts of the district housing conditions are fairly good, with the exception of a few isolated groups. There are no back to back houses in the district.

Following the preparation of a five year slum clearance programme during the latter part of 1955, the period under review formed the first complete year of activity in this field. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 31 houses occupied by 33 families with a total of 78 persons. At the end of the year only one tenant had been rehoused and it is interesting to note that this tenant occupied the Council's 1,000th post war house. The remaining families were rehoused early in 1957.

During the year twenty houses from the 1955 slum clearance programme were demolished together with one house demolished voluntarily by the owners.

It has been found that a number of the houses included in the five year slum clearance programme have been sold on becoming vacant and the new owner-occupiers have considered it a good investment to spend what would in normal circumstances be considered an unreasonable amount to bring the property up to modern standards. This procedure may have the effect of prolonging the life of such houses and may be desirable in the case of individual houses, but this practice is likely to lead to complications in many respects at a later date when the houses are to be dealt with, to find that one house of a pair or two or three houses in a row of such property have been improved and the adjoining houses are unfit for habitation.



The operation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, has again failed to provide the necessary incentive to improve the condition of sub-standard houses. Only in one case did the owner carry out the necessary repairs, and the certificate of disrepair issued during 1955 in respect of this house was revoked. No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

In the many cases where it has been necessary to serve Statutory Notices to remedy defects in dwelling houses, action has been taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, owing to the present high cost of building repairs and the difficulty of complying with the "reasonable expense" clause of Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Although the position has eased somewhat during the past year, some delay is still experienced in getting repairs carried out promptly owing to the attitude of some owners who ignore all notices and correspondence until legal proceedings are threatened. Further delay is often experienced when work has been given to contractors who fail to carry out repairs in a reasonable time. In all these cases much extra work is created by the necessity for repeated visits to the property together with additional correspondence and telephone calls. To some extent this may be due to builders and property repairers being engaged on new or more remunerative work and who somewhat reluctantly undertake repair work.

Many of these defects occur in houses which cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable expense and the constant attention to this sub-standard property takes more of your Public Health Inspector's time than is often appreciated, coupled with the fact that one is merely touching the fringe of this problem and not getting down to the complete repair and provision of modern amenities in these houses.

During the year thirteen applications were submitted for improvement grants under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, as amended by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Ten applications were approved and an improvement grant of 50 per cent of the estimated cost of the approved works was made. The total cost of the approved works in these cases was £1,798. 7. 2. and other work to the value of £1,760. 6. 1. consisting largely of repairs and replacements was carried out in these schemes. At the end of the year, four of these schemes had been completed together with three schemes which were approved in 1955.

Of the remaining three applications for improvement grants two were refused and one was subsequently amended and later approved as a conversion of one house into two dwellings.

During the year a total of eighteen houses were completely reconditioned to the standard of a satisfactory house, including the seven houses in respect of which an improvement grant was made and one house from the list of property to be demolished during the next five years. All this work was carried out voluntarily by the owners.

Number of New Houses Erected during the Year

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(i) By the local authority	80	6	-
(ii) By other local authorities	-	-	-
(iii) By other bodies or persons	35	44	-
Total	115	50	-

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... ..	311
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	871
2.	Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit	
	(a) No. found during year ... ..	6
	(b) No. (or estimated No.) at end of year ... ..	142
3.	No. of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ...	174

2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936 and  
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

1.	No. of dwelling houses demolished during year	
(a)	Unfit houses ... ..	Nil
(b)	Other houses ... ..	Nil
2.	No. of persons displaced ... ..	Nil

3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas

1.	Houses demolished or closed during year	No. of	
		Houses	Persons Displaced
(a)	Housing Act, 1936		
	(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure... ..	21	61
	(ii) Closed in pursuance of an under- taking given by owners ...	Nil	Nil
	(iii) Parts of building closed ...	Nil	Nil
(b)	Housing Act, 1949		
	(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2) ... ..	Nil	Nil
(c)	Local Government (Miscellaneous Prov- isions) Act, 1953		
	(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) ... ..	Nil	Nil

## 2. Repairs during the year

No. of Houses

(a)	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal actions by the local authority under the Housing and Public Health Acts ...	97
(b)	Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied-	
	(i) By owners ... ..	49
	(ii) By local authority in default of owners ... ..	1
(c)	Housing Act, 1936 - Action after service of formal notice	
	Houses made fit-	
	(i) By owners ... ..	Nil
	(ii) By local authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil
(d)	Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	
	Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved	1

4. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use  
(Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

(1)	No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 ... ..	Nil
(2)	No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above ... ..	Nil
(3)	No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary accommodation ... ..	Nil



5. Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during year:-

- (a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority ... ..
- (b) Approved by local authority ... ..
- (c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry
- (d) Finally approved by Ministry ... ..
- (e) Work completed ...
- (f) Additional separate dwellings included in (e) above... ..

Private Bodies or Individuals		Local Authority	
No. of Schemes	No. of Dwelling Houses or Other Buildings Affected	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwelling Houses or Other Buildings Affected
12	13	-	-
10	10	-	-
-	-	1	11
-	-	Nil	Nil
* 7	7	Nil	Nil
Nil		Nil	

\*Includes three schemes approved in 1955

Verminous Houses

During the year two Council houses and five privately owned houses were found to be infested with vermin and the premises, bedding and furniture were treated twice with liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. In both cases the infestation was of a minor character and the treatment was carried out by the Health Department. The premises were kept under observation after treatment and no evidence of reinfestation was found. Two other premises were also found to be vermin infested and were treated in a similar manner.

## DRAINAGE AND CONVERSIONS

During the year thirty-eight visits were made in connection with the conversion of privy and pail closets and one hundred and eleven inspections were made in respect of the examination and repair of drains. In addition to twenty-seven choked drains being cleared, seven drains were reconstructed entirely and fifty-one additional drains were provided, largely in connection with the conversion scheme. Twenty-three ventilation shafts were provided in connection with these drains. In two cases a new system of drainage was provided and the premises - more than 100 feet from the road - were connection to the sewer. New septic tanks and effluent drains were provided for two houses where a sewer was not available.

Eleven privies and one pail closet were converted to fresh water closets, and twenty-seven additional water closets were provided during the year. Five privy closets and one pail closet attached to houses included in the demolition programme were also demolished.

The number of closet conversions carried out has been most disappointing and is little more than one quarter the moderate number carried out during the previous year (42). The majority of these conversions have been carried out in the "owner-occupied" type of house and little progress has been made during the year in the elimination of the remaining insanitary and objectionable privy and pail closets at rented houses.

With a view to providing an incentive to owners to convert privy and pail closets to the water carriage system, the Council have continued the increased conversion grant of £10, but this does not appear to attract some owners and compulsory conversion will ultimately be required to remove the real "hardcore" of this problem.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of infectious diseases investigated	40
Total number of visits made   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	49
Number of houses fumigated   ...   ...   ...   ...   ...	29
Number of library books disinfected   ...   ...   ...   ...	6
Number of school books disinfected   ...   ...   ...   ...	3

Full details of all cases are obtained and recorded, and rooms, bedding and other articles are fumigated with Formaldehyde after the patient is removed to hospital or when the patient is certified free from infection.

## WATER SUPPLY

Number of dwelling houses with piped supply ... ..	5,731
Number of dwelling houses supplied from wells ... ..	0
Number of dwelling houses supplied by stand pipe ... ..	0

All the houses in the district are now supplied from the public mains. During the year the last private well supply was diverted entirely for agricultural use and a public water supply was provided at the farm house concerned. A sample of water from this well was submitted for bacteriological examination and found to be satisfactory.

Twelve samples of water from the main public supplies in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which were found to be satisfactory.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Meat Inspection

One licensed slaughterhouse has been in operation during the year and animals slaughtered at these premises have provided a portion of the meat supply for the Glazebury and Culcheth districts. The main supply of butchers meat is, however, obtained from outside the Urban District and all the meat sold is of good quality.

The inspection of meat has always been given priority and a total of two hundred and one visits were made to the slaughterhouse during the year for meat inspection purposes. As the number of animals slaughtered at any one time is comparatively small it will be seen that three or four and sometimes five visits per week were required to ensure 100 per cent inspection. All the animals slaughtered were of the best quality

During the year it has not been necessary to condemn, or accept the surrender of, any meat at butchers shops in the district.

The following table indicates the number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1956

## Animals Inspected and Carcasses Condemned

	Cattle -ex- cluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	106	15	2	544	49
Number inspected ...	106	15	2	544	49
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	5	-	54	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	8.49	33.33	-	9.92	2.04
<u>Tuberculosis only-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemn- ed ... ..	1	3	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.94	20.00	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemn- ed ... ..	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refriger- ation ... ..	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned ... ..	-	-	-	-	-



Details of Meat Condemned  
1956

TuberculosisOther Diseases

Cattle,  
excluding Cows

Lungs - 1

Livers - 7 (Parasitic)

Livers - 1 (Abscesses)

Lungs - 1 (Pneumonia)

Cows

Heads - 1

Livers - 3 (Parasitic)

Lungs - 3

Lungs - 1 (do )

Livers - 1

Lungs - 1 (Pleurisy)

Mesentery - 1

Stomach - 1 (Inflammation)

Mesentery - 1 (do )

Sheep

Livers - 42 (Parasitic)

Lungs - 16 (do )

Pigs

Lungs - 1 (Pneumonia)

All condemned meat was stained with green dye and removed to a licensed plant for conversion to fertilisers.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned at slaughterhouses -  
4 Cwts, 2 Qtrs, 20 lbs.

Unsound Food

The following table indicates the various tinned and other foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption at shops and warehouses, all of which were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1956		
Food Unfit for Human Consumption		
Nature of Food	Type of Packing	Quantity Condemned
		lbs
Apricots ... ..	1-lb. tins	6
Baked Beans... ..	1-lb. tins	3
Butter Beans ... ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins	1
Chicken ... ..	4-lb. tins	8
Cocoa ... ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. pkts.	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cooked Ham ... ..	68 tins	782 $\frac{1}{4}$
	(Various Weights)	
Cooked Pork... ..	7 tins	63 $\frac{3}{4}$
	(Various Weights)	
Corned Beef... ..	6-lb. tins	280
	3-lb. tins	6
Corned Beef with Cereals	5-lb. tin	5
Currants ... ..	$\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. pkt.	$\frac{3}{4}$
Evaporated Milk ... ..	16-oz. tin	1
Frosted Flakes ... ..	12-oz. pkt.	$\frac{3}{4}$
Jellied Veal ... ..	6-lb. tin	6
Luncheon Meat ... ..	12-lb. tin	12
	5-lb. 8-oz. tin	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
	4-lb. tin	4
	2-lb. tins	4
	$\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. tins	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Minced Chicken ... ..	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz. jars	$\frac{1}{4}$
Nestles Cream ... ..	4-oz. tins	$\frac{1}{2}$
Oranges ... ..	11-oz. tins	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ox Tongue ... ..	34 tins	180 $\frac{1}{2}$
	(Various Weights)	
Peaches ... ..	11-lb. tins	187
	$\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. tin	$\frac{3}{4}$
Pears ... ..	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. tin	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1-lb. 1-oz. tins	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Peas ... ..	1-lb. 3-oz. tins	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
	1-lb. tin	1
	$\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. tin	$\frac{3}{4}$

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1956		
Food Unfit for Human Consumption		
Nature of Food	Type of Packing	Quantity Condemned
		lbs
Pineapple ... ..	1-lb. tins	6
	$\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. tins	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Plums ... ..	$1\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. tin	$14\frac{1}{4}$
Pork Luncheon Meat... ..	15-lb. 9 oz. tin	$15\frac{1}{2}$
	$\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tin	$\frac{1}{2}$
Raisins ... ..	1-lb. pkts.	2
Rice Pudding... ..	1-lb. tins	3
Salmon ... ..	1-lb. tins	2
Sardines ... ..	$\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. tin	$\frac{1}{4}$
Silver Sild ... ..	2-oz. tins	$\frac{1}{4}$
Stewed Steak... ..	1-lb. tins	3
	$\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins	1
Strawberries... ..	1-lb. tin	1
Syrup ... ..	1-lb. tins	3
Tomatoes ... ..	2-lb. 3-oz. tins	$17\frac{1}{2}$
	14-oz. tins	$33\frac{3}{4}$
	8-oz. tins	$3\frac{1}{2}$
	Total	$1,670\frac{1}{2}$

Total weight of foodstuffs condemned - 14 Cwts, 3 Qtrs,  $18\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

Approximate weight of total quantity of stock or consignment examined from which the above was condemned - 9 Tons,  $15\frac{1}{4}$  Cwts.

Small quantities of condemned tinned and other foodstuffs are disposed of by burning on an industrial boiler under supervision or buried on the tip and covered with household refuse. Larger quantities of tinned meats are removed to a licensed plant at Wigan and manufactured into fertilisers, etc.

Forty visits were made in connection with the inspection of food in shops and warehouses during the year.

#### Food Premises

The number of food premises, classified according to type of business, in the district at the end of the year was as follows:-

General Grocers and Provision Dealers	...	...	76
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	...	...	4
Meat Shops (Butchers, Purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, tripe, etc.)	...	...	16
Bakers and/or Confectioners	...	...	13
Fried Fish Shops...	...	...	11
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc.	...	...	17
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	...	...	61
Total	...	...	<hr/> 198 <hr/>

Frequent inspection of premises used for the preparation, storage and sale of food has been carried out during the year. A total of 856 visits were made for the purpose, of which 483 were in respect of cafes, bakehouses and other food preparation premises, and much time has been spent in advising all food traders of the dangers arising from the careless handling of food in the course of preparations, storage and sale. The gradual progress made during the past few years in the improvement of food handling processes has been well maintained during the period under review.

Great stress has been placed on the need of a high standard of personal hygiene for persons employed in these trades, and the majority of food handlers fully appreciate this matter. Most shopkeepers now realise that the general public are becoming "clean food" conscious and only by maintaining a high standard of cleanliness can they hope to retain the goodwill of their customers.

Pamphlets and posters dealing with the various aspects of clean food production were distributed to food traders during the year.

#### Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

These Regulations came into operation on 1st January, 1956, with the exception of certain provisions relating to washbasins and other matters which were operative from 1st July, 1956. Many of these regulations had far reaching implications and much serious consideration had to be given to the interpretation of certain requirements.



For the first time in any food legislation the provision of a fixed washbasin with hot and cold water was required in most food premises, and this appeared to cause the greatest concern amongst shopkeepers and other persons having control of food premises. As a result of this requirement many suggestions were received regarding the use of portable bowls and similar equipment, but a fixed washbasin, in a readily accessible position, was insisted upon in every case.

During the early part of the year a printed summary of the Regulations was distributed to all the food premises in the district and later in the year a detailed inspection of all premises coming within the scope of the Regulations was commenced. In view of the many additional requirements of the Regulations, all the existing records of food premises were rendered obsolete and an entirely new card record system had to be put into use.

A total of 103 visits were made for this purpose and at the end of the year a detailed list of contraventions and new requirements had been sent to the occupiers of 66 shops. With the many hours of subsequent discussion with shopkeepers regarding the effect of the Regulations on various types of business and the interpretation of the various items required this work proved to be a very time consuming operation and was often carried out at the expense of other duties.

In spite of the many improvements which have been affected in food premises and equipment during the past few years the effect of the new Regulations has been such that almost every one of the food premises in the district have failed to comply in all respects with the new law.

The following table shows the extent to which those food premises already dealt with failed to comply with the new standard. It should be understood that these figures represent only the commencement of this important work and there is still much to do in this field. At the end of the year there were many premises requiring initial inspection and revisits to those food premises already dealt with to determine whether the requirements of the Regulations had been complied with could not be undertaken. It is anticipated that the report for 1957 will show the true progress made in the administration of these Regulations as a result of the ground work carried out during the period under review.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955Contraventions and Defects Found

Insufficient protection of food ... ..	64
Personal cleanliness and clothing, etc. ... ..	35
Improper wrapping of food ... ..	8
Insufficient or defective sanitary conveniences	9
Provision of hand washing notices ... ..	66
Absence of water supply ... ..	1
Absence of accessible wash hand basins ... ..	63
Absence of, or unsuitable, sinks ... ..	8
Absence of constant hot water supply ... ..	28
Provision of first aid equipment ... ..	27
Unsuitable accommodation for clothing ... ..	33
Inadequate lighting of food rooms ... ..	1
Inadequate ventilation of food rooms ... ..	19
Food rooms communicating with sleeping places ...	1
Lack of equipment cleanliness, etc. ... ..	3
Lack of cleanliness and repair of food rooms ...	16
Accumulations of refuse ... ..	5

Registration of Premises

The provisions of Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, were not adopted by the Council and registration of premises and persons continue to be effected under Sections 115 and 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

During the year two hawkers of fish, fruit and vegetables and seven ice cream premises (prepacked production only) were registered under the 1938 Act. Whilst premises relating to the manufacture and sale of ice cream are referred to later in the report, the number of food preparation premises and hawkers on the register at the end of the year, together with the number of inspections, was as follows:-

	<u>No. of</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of Inspec-</u> <u>tions during</u> <u>Year</u>
Manufacturers of Meat and Fish Products-		
Fish Friers ... ..	11	10
Butchers ... ..	8	14
Grocers ... ..	5	95
Confectioners ... ..	11	25

	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Inspec- tions during year</u>
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	45	70
Hawkers of Meat Products, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables resident in the district	10	5
Hawkers Storage Premises in the district ... ..	7	17
Hawkers from other districts ...	29	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ... ..	126	236
	<hr/>	<hr/>

### Food Byelaws

Model byelaws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air are in operation in the district. In three cases warnings were given to shopkeepers regarding unprotected foodstuffs displayed so as to be liable to contamination, but generally there has been a gradual improvement in the standard of food handling since the byelaws were put into operation, and this is largely a question of education of all concerned in the food trades in the necessity for hygienic food handling practices.

### Bakehouses

Number of bakehouses on register ... ..	13
Number of inspections made during the year ... ..	25

All these premises have been kept in a clean condition, but in three cases it was necessary to draw attention to limewashing not carried out within the requisite period and this work was done immediately on notice being given. In the case of two bakehouses dealt with during 1955, buildings partly constructed of wood were replaced by permanent brick built premises and all the bakehouses are now in good structural condition. During the year the use of two bakehouses was discontinued and the premises were used for other purposes.

### MILK SUPPLY

The Urban District is included in the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 3 Order and dairymen are required to supply only designated milk in sealed bottles and containers.



With all milk produced at farms in the district now being sent to pasteurisation depots outside the area, the number of sources of supply of designated milk coming into the area is accordingly restricted.

In addition to dairies situated on farm premises there is only one dairy registered in the district and these premises are used for the storage of bottled milk from the wholesale supplier pending delivery by retail, which is often only a period of a few hours.

Sixty-two visits were made to premises in connection with matters relative to the Milk and Dairies Regulations during the year.

Six new distributors were registered during the year and the total number of registered milk distributors is seventy, these persons operating from the following premises:-

(a) Dairies in the district	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Dairy farms in the district	...	...	...	...	11
(c) Shops in the district other than dairies	...	...	...	...	42
(d) Premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	16

#### Milk (Special Designations) Orders

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, control the licensing and distribution of designated milk, the former regulation relating to Tuberculin Tested and the latter Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.

Eight new licences were granted under these Regulations, chiefly in connection with the sale of Sterilised Milk, and the total number of licences issued during the year was as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested - Dealers	...	...	...	...	9
Supplementary	...	...	...	...	13
Pasteurised - Dealers	...	...	...	...	11
Supplementary	...	...	...	...	15
Sterilised - Dealers	...	...	...	...	51
Supplementary	...	...	...	...	14

#### Milk Sampling

During the year all the milk produced at farms in the district and milk supplies from outside areas have been sampled regularly. These samples have been submitted for the Tuberculosis Test and Methylene Blue Test, and in the case of heat treated milk, the Phosphatase Test for Pasteurised and the Turbidity Test for Sterilised milk.



A total of 98 samples was taken during the year and the results of these are as follows:-

<u>Type of Milk</u>	<u>Methylene Blue</u> <u>Test</u>		<u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>Test</u>		<u>Turbidity</u> <u>Test</u>
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Negative	Positive	Satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	23	5	27	-	-
Ungraded	29	3	30	2	-
T.T. Pasteurised	3	-	3	-	-
Pasteurised	22	-	21	-	-
Sterilised	-	-	-	-	13

The twenty-five samples of Pasteurised milk also passed the Phosphatase Test. One sample of Tuberculin Tested milk and one sample of Pasteurised milk submitted for the biological test were rendered void as a result of the guinea pigs dying before the end of the test.

Two samples of ungraded milk were found to contain evidence of Tuberculous infection and immediate notification was sent to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who carried out an investigation of the two herds concerned. In spite of extensive tests carried out all the cows were found to be negative for Tuberculosis and it must be assumed that certain cows removed for sale out of both herds in the interim period between the sample being taken and the commencement of the investigation had been the offending animals.

Although the milk supply from these farms is sent for pasteurisation, it is a matter of conjecture as to the length of time these animals would have remained in the herds concerned with consequent continuation of Tuberculous infection in the milk supply if these samples had not been taken. The safety of milk supplies from such sources depends entirely on the efficiency of the pasteurisation process and there is a potential danger to the milk producer, his family and his employees who quite legally consume the raw milk without knowing it contains Tuberculous infection. These cases emphasise the necessity of continuing milk sampling from all sources.

Details of eight unsatisfactory samples submitted for the Methylene Blue Test were referred to the Milk Production Officer of the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee for investigation and remedy.

The following table shows the results of milk samples taken, together with comparative figures for the previous five years.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1956

## Examination of Milk Samples, 1951-1955 &amp; 1956

Type of Milk	Year	No. of Samples taken	Nature of Test						Tuberculosis		
			Methylene Blue		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Un-Satis.	Negative	Positive
			Satis.	Un-Satis.	Satis.	Un-Satis.	Satis.	Un-Satis.			
Tuberculin Tested	1956	28	23	5	-	-	-	-	-	27	-
	1955	37	32	5	-	-	-	-	-	35	-
	1954	20	16	4	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
	1953	15	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
	1952	10	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
	1951	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Ungraded	1956	32	29	3	-	-	-	-	-	30	2
	1955	23	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	22	-
	1954	34	32	2	-	-	-	-	-	28	3
	1953	46	43	3	-	-	-	-	-	39	7
	1952	42	38	4	-	-	-	-	-	42	-
	1951	50	48	2	-	-	-	-	-	46	2
Pasteurised	1956	25	25	-	25	-	-	-	-	24	-
	1955	24	22+	-	24	-	-	-	-	23	-
	1954	30	28+	-	30	-	-	-	-	24	-
	1953	19	18*	-	19	-	-	-	-	14	-
	1952	19	19	-	18	1	-	-	-	4	-
	1951	5	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	-
Sterilised	1956	13	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-
	1955	9	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-
	1954	15	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
	1953	21	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-
	1952	9	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-
	1951	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-

\*Test on one sample void - Atmospheric shade temperature over 65° F.

+ Test on two samples void - do do do do do

## ICE CREAM

The premises of one person are registered for the manufacture of ice cream from a complete cold mix powder. There is no heat treated ice cream manufactured in the district.

As in previous years a number of applications were received from grocers and occupiers of small mixed shops for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, and seven premises were registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream only. During the year a number of purveyors previously registered discontinued the sale of ice cream.

The total number of vendors of ice cream is 45 of which 44 sell pre-packed ice cream only. In addition six manufacturers from outside the district operate mobile vehicles in the Golborne Urban District and retail loose ice cream.

These premises and vehicles are inspected regularly and 70 visits were made for this purpose. The requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations relating to manufacture have been complied with and other regulations relating to the storage of ice cream have been well observed by the 44 purveyors of pre-packed products.

Some difficulty has been experienced during the year in obtaining samples of ice cream from mobile vehicles from outside districts who often operate at irregular hours and prevent the submission of a sample to the Public Health Laboratory within the requisite period. In these cases the assistance of the officer of the local authority concerned was obtained.

During the year thirty-five samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these samples, two were of loose ice cream and both were classified as Grade 1. One of these samples, known as "Iced Sherbet", was also submitted to the Coliform Test and was found to be satisfactory. The remaining thirty-three samples were of pre-packed products and twenty-eight were classified as Grade 1 and five as Grade 2. On the recommendations of the Public Health Laboratory Service all these results are regarded as satisfactory.

The grading of ice cream samples over the past five years is as follows:-



	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Grade 1	30	25	26	37	21
" 2	5	8	2	3	8
" 3	-	4	4	-	-
" 4	-	1	-	1	1
	<u>35</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>30</u>

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The County Council is the authority responsible for carrying out the provisions of the above Act relating to food sampling, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for particulars of the following samples which have been taken in the district and submitted for analysis:-

A total of 85 samples was obtained, 40 being milk and the remaining 45 consisted of the following:-

1 Bacon	3 Ice Lollies
1 Barley	1 Meat, Canned
2 Blancmange Powder	2 Oatmeal
1 Butter Beans	1 Olive Oil
1 Castor Oil	3 Salad Cream
6 Cocoa	3 Salt
2 Cream, Canned	1 Semolina
2 Custard Powder	4 Sweets
1 Dried Peas	1 Tapioca
2 Fruit Curd	5 Tea
1 Golden Raising Powder	1 Vegetables, Canned

The samples were submitted for analysis to the County Analyst, and, with the exception of the following, all were reported to be genuine.

<u>Type of Food</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
Blancmange Powder	Contained 0.5% salt without declaration.	Packers communicated with
Cocoa	Sample contained live and dead beetles, larvae and eggs resembling Nip-tus Hololeucus (Golden Spider Beetle)	Stock examined and surrendered to Local Authority



<u>Type of Food</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
Custard Powder	Contained 0.5% salt without declaration	Packers communicated with
Barley	Contained live Tyroglyphus Farines	Stock seived and re-packed

#### SHOPS ACT, 1950

Under this Act the Golborne Urban District is not a "local authority" for the purposes of the Act, having a population of less than 20,000 and responsibility is placed on the County Council, except for Section 38 which deals with sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature of shops, and is the direct responsibility of the sanitary authority.

Generally, the shops in the district have maintained a good standard during the year. A gradual improvement in the condition of shop premises was noted and the replacement of old shop fittings with modern display shelves, cabinets, impervious counter tops and other equipment is gradually taking place, particularly in food shops. In connection with the sanitary provisions of the Shops Act, it was found necessary to draw attention to defective means of ventilation at two shops and defective sanitary conveniences in two other cases. All these defects were remedied on notice being given to the occupiers together with improved means of heating and ventilation carried out voluntarily at another shop. These defects are exclusive of those contraventions found in food shops which have been reported under that heading.

Under delegated powers from the County Council, 68 Shops Act inspections were made during the year. These inspections deal with the working hours, weekly half holidays and intervals for meals and rest of all young persons employed about the business of a shop, and other provisions relating to the health and comfort of all shop workers. Details of each inspection are forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health and any contraventions found are dealt with directly by the County Council.

#### LICENSED PREMISES

The work of improving the sanitary accommodation and refuse storage arrangements at licensed premises has continued during the year but it has not been possible to carry out inspections of licensed premises in connection with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and although it is known that some premises have been brought up to standard there is still much work to do in this field.

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This Act governs the conditions under which rag flock is manufactured and stored, and controls the use of this and other filling materials for upholstery and other purposes. Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are prescribed by Regulation and certain premises require to be registered by the local authority.

One factory in the district carrying on upholstery work is registered by the Council. There are no premises in the district where rag flock is manufactured. Four visits were made to the registered premises and three samples of filling materials were submitted for analysis, all of which satisfied the tests laid down by the Regulations.

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1954

These Acts prohibit the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen, and require all animals to be stunned by means of a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter.

Licences granted to slaughtermen under these Acts are valid for a maximum period of one year. Six licences were renewed during the year and these specified the types of animal their holders were permitted to slaughter and the type of stunning instrument to be used. No new licences were issued during the year.

## RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, places responsibilities on Local Authorities with regard to destruction of rats and mice. Under this Act the Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that all land and premises, including farms, is kept free from rodent infestation and once again it is pleasing to record the co-operation given by the officers of the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee in dealing with the latter type of premises.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Infestation Division, two treatments of the sewers in the Golborne portion of the district were carried out and showed good results. The annual 10 per cent test baiting of the sewerage system in Golborne (outer district), Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth was again negative and no further sewer treatment was carried out in these areas.

The number of sewer manholes found to be infested was two on the first treatment and one on the second treatment. This level of

infestation is somewhat less than that of the previous year and compares favourably with the average of the past five years.

Whilst the Council have continued to give a free service for the treatment of rodent infestations found on dwelling houses, there appears to be a belief that the Council are bound to carry out this work, consequently householders do very little to help themselves and in some cases encourage infestation by keeping poultry and other animals in yards and other unsuitable places. Although the Council carry out this work and render every assistance in these cases, it should be emphasised that the statutory responsibility of keeping premises free from rodent infestation is placed on the occupier.

In the case of rodent infestations on business premises, a charge is made for treatment based on the actual cost of labour, bait and poisons, plus an administrative percentage. In all cases the work has been carried out voluntarily by arrangement with the occupiers and it was not found necessary to serve any Statutory Notices under the Act.

The total number of infestations treated during the year was 81 compared with 94 the previous year, two infestations found on farm premises being treated by the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee's Pest Service. The total number of treatments including re-treatments carried out during the year was 94. 240 properties were inspected for rodent control purposes and the total number of visits made to these premises was 531, exclusive of subsequent visits made for the treatment of infested properties. Details of this work are shown in the following table.

Details of Surface Infestations

	Type of Property			
	Non-Agricultural			Agri-cultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other Premises	
(a) Number of properties in district ...	22	5,731	541	71
(b) Number of properties inspected ...	18	104	65	53
(c) Total inspections carried out, inc. reinspections ...	25	263	159	84

(Table continued on Page 77)



(Table continued from Page 76)

	Type of Property			
	Non-Agricultural			Agri- cultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other Premises	
(d) Number of properties which were found to be infested by				
Rats - Major ...	2	-	1	-
Minor ...	5	35	17	2
Mice - Major ...	-	1	1	-
Minor ...	-	11	8	-
(e) Number of infested properties treated	7	47	27	-
(f) Total treatments carr- ied out, inc. re- treatments ...	13	51	30	-
(g) Number of block control schemes carried out	-	-	-	-

Details of Rat Destruction in Sewers

District	Treatment	Manholes Baited	Manholes Infested	No. Infested last year
Golborne (central)	No. 1	31	2	2
Golborne ( " )	No. 2	28	1	3
Golborne (outer dis- trict)	10% Test Bait	15	Nil	Nil
Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth	10% Test Bait	32	Nil	Nil

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During the year three applications were received for licences to place caravans on land in the district for permanent habitation. In two cases licences were granted until the end of December, 1957, and the remaining application was refused. The licences of five existing caravans were renewed for a further period of one year and one of these caravans was removed during the latter part of the year, together with two caravans licensed for the first time in 1955. The number of licensed caravans in use for habitation at the end of the year was five.



In all cases the caravans licensed have been of the modern trailer caravan type stationed on separate sites, and sanitary accommodation, readily accessible water supply and adequate drainage and paving around the caravan and approach have been provided in accordance with conditions imposed on each licence. Restrictions are also imposed on the erection of other buildings and structures adjoining or adjacent to caravans.

Action was also taken during the year to remove two travelling vans camped on unsuitable sites.

Twenty-six visits were made in connection with this work during the year.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

#### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This act provides for a system of licensing and inspection of all premises used for the sale of pets, including a private dwelling if used for this purpose.

The provisions of the Act require that accommodation used for keeping pets shall be suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness, that there is an adequate supply of suitable food and drink and that the animals shall not be sold at too early an age.

One new licence was issued in respect of premises used for the sale of birds and three existing licences authorising the use of premises for the breeding and sale of rabbits were renewed for a further year. Exemption from licensing under the pedigree animals clause was claimed in two cases which were investigated.

#### ANIMAL DESTRUCTION CENTRE

The Council have provided an Animal Destruction Centre at the rear of the Council Offices, Lowton, for the destruction of unwanted domestic animals. A modern dual purpose electrocution chamber is in operation and for a nominal charge cats and dogs are instantaneously and painlessly destroyed, a service which continues to be greatly appreciated by the public. During the year 58 dogs and 20 cats have been destroyed. The carcasses are removed and properly disposed of.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1907 - SECTION 86

## Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers

The provisions of the above Section which relate to the registration of dealers in old metal and marine store dealers are in operation in the district and two persons and their premises were registered during the year. Three persons in the area are now registered for this purpose. The registration of one person was cancelled on him discontinuing business as a dealer in old metal.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The number of factories on the register at the end of the year is as follows:-

Rayon Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	2
Preserves and Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	5
Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Boot and Shoe Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	2
Motor Vehicle Repairs	...	...	...	...	...	3
Printers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Joiners and Builders...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	13
Corn Milling	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tyre Retreading and Rubber Reclamation...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Electrical Repairs and Fitments	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cinema Furnisher	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hospital Laundry	...	...	...	...	...	1
Electricity Transforming	...	...	...	...	...	1
Building Operations	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other Works	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total						59

The requirements of the Factories Act appear to be well observed and in every case defects were remedied without statutory action. Some difficulty was, however, experienced in the administration of Section 107 regarding the provision of sanitary accommodation on numerous small building sites in the district.

The following tables give details of factory inspections carried out during the year under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and defects dealt with.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1956				
Factories Act, 1937				
Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories with mechanical power	53	105	4	-
Factories without mechanical power	1	2	-	-
Other premises	5	11	4	-
Total	59	118	8	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1956					
Factories Act, 1937 Defects Found					
Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspec- tor (4)	Referred by H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	No. of Offences in respect of which Prosecu- tions were Instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness	3	3	-	-	-
Inadequate venti- lation ... ..	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drain- age of floors ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temper- ature ... ..	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	4	5	-	4	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences	3	3	-	-	-
Totals ... ..	14	15	-	6	-



## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the year eighteen observations were taken of smoke emission from factory chimneys in the district.

Bye-laws are in operation limiting the emission of black smoke to two minutes in any period of thirty minutes.

Number of factory chimneys in district	...	...	16 (11 in use)
Number of observations taken	...	...	18
Written notices served	...	...	0
Legal proceedings...	...	...	0

	<u>Black</u>		<u>Moderate</u>		<u>None</u>	
	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
Heaviest emission of smoke during any observation (minutes)	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	15	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Lightest emission of smoke during any observation (minutes)	-	-	3	6	27	24
Average amount of smoke emitted during observations (minutes)	0.06	0.09	8.36	9.71	21.57	20.20

It will be seen that the emission of smoke from industrial premises shows some improvement on the previous year. No statutory smoke nuisances were recorded and, what is equally important, the amount of moderate smoke has also been reduced. During fourteen of the eighteen observations taken the amount of moderate smoke recorded has been less than ten minutes of the half hour observation and the lightest emission during these observations was the record low figure of three minutes. This is a very welcome trend in the smoke abatement campaign.

Whilst the coal supply position appears to have improved during the year, the quality of this type of fuel continues to cause some concern to operators of boiler plant, particularly during peak demand periods in the winter months.

The Council are members of the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, and the National Smoke Abatement Society.

Whilst our efforts have been concerned with industrial smoke, the problem of domestic smoke, which is responsible for much more atmospheric pollution than the public generally realise, still remains with us.



Although a considerable number of improved domestic firegrates have been fitted during the past few years, progress in the use of smokeless fuels has been limited. These grates are designed to burn such fuels more efficiently than coal and would considerably reduce the amount of atmospheric pollution from this source, which is of vital importance if we are to have a cleaner atmosphere.

Unfortunately, the present position is largely due to the increased price of solid smokeless fuel compared with coal and until the manufacturers can provide these fuels in increased quantities at a competitive price their voluntary use by the public will be limited, and particularly from the supply point of view, create some restriction on the establishment of smoke control areas.

The Clean Air Bill was passed into law on 5th July, 1956, but only certain provisions became operative from 31st December, and the main clauses relating to the emission of dark smoke and other important matters are not yet in operation. It is hoped that this new legislation, when fully operative, will provide the necessary incentive for local authorities, industry and all concerned in this work to remove the existing forms of pollution and provide a cleaner and healthier atmosphere.



